GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2736
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005
EXCESS UNITS IN RATION CARDS
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the instances where the number of units entered in the ration cards have been found to exceed the number of residents of the area;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether this gross anomaly exist as there is no mechanism to cross check the entries with electoral rolls;

(d) if so, whether cards were issued even to the illegal immigrants;

(e) if so, the steps being taken to check such illegal issue of cards;

(f) whether the Government propose to create a national citizenship register; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a), (b) & (c): The information regarding the number of units entered in the ration cards by various State Governments is not maintained by the Central Government. Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the responsibility for procurement of foodgrains and their transportation upto the principal distribution centers of the Food Corporation of India rests with the Central Government and that of identification of beneficiaries, issue of ration cards and distribution of foodgrains through the Fair Price Shops rests with the respective State Governments.

(d) & (e): Government has not received any such information about issue of ration cards to the illegal immigrants. However, the State Governments who issue the ration cards are expected to verify the antecedents of the beneficiaries before issue of the ration cards.

(f) & (g): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.